

REMARKS

A proposal is made for cancellation of Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-9, 11-30, 31 and 36 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. Allowed Claims/Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of Claims 3 and 32-35.

2. § 102 Rejections

The Patent Office has rejected claims 1-2, 4, 8, 9, 31 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Cutler (Pat. Appl. No. 2004/0152593).

3. § 103 Rejections

The Patent Office has rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8-10, 31 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeAngelis (Pat. No. 4, 888, 317).

4. Proposed Amendment

Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103. However, in light of the indication by the Examiner of the allowance of Claims 3 and 32-35, and in order to expedite issuance of a patent, Applicants propose cancellation of Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-9, 31 and 36 without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby obviating the rejections; Applicants also propose cancellation of Claims 11-30 without prejudice or disclaimer; and Applicants reserve the right to pursue divisional or continuation applications based upon the present Application.

Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of records, applicant believes the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Applicants believe that an extension of time of three (3) months is necessary to make this Reply timely. Should applicant be in error, Applicants respectfully request that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorize the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Joseph M. Homa at 607-974-9061.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph M. Homa
Attorney for Assignee
Registration Number: 40,023
Corning Incorporated
SP-TI-03-1
Corning, NY 14831
Phone: 607-974-9061

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